December 30
1920

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened" (PROVERBS 10: 27).

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GREETINGS OF THE MISSIONARIES.

WHAT a beautiful season Yule-tide is! It brings good cheer and blessings to those who forget self by endeavoring to make others happy. Those who catch the Christmas spirit forgive, lighten the burdens of others and send remembrances. Thus they celebrate the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord. He was our Father's great gift to the world. No people appreciate this gift nor the opportunity to commemorate this event more than we. No other people have been so generously blessed, for we have the gospel and God's noblemen to lead us. Every Latter-day Saint is our friend. Thus we have a great brotherhood which the world must build upon. It is a pleasure for us to give an expression of our love and devotion to this great cause, to our Prophet and leader, to our beloved President Smith, and those within the fold. To all, we send the season's greetings of a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Deseret, London. JAMES GUNN MCKAY,
ANNA O. MCKAY.

CHRISTMASTIDE and the New Year bring new resolutions. There are none better than "I'll do unto others as I would have them do unto me." Give the flowers now. Do not wait until it is too late. Speak the good word or say nothing.

This is the season when, as children of light we join in the angels' song, "glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, goodwill toward men." It is the time to give and to receive. As our Heavenly Father gave his only begotten Son to redeem mankind, that whosoever shall believe on him and do his will, shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life." So should we give of the best that we possess.

There are many things in this world that bring comfort and pleasure. But the thing that brings real joy and perfect happi-

ness, is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The psalmist of old cried: "O send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead me." So pray we to our Heavenly Father for the Latter-day Saints at this Christmas time. With faith, repentance, and humility, we have entered into the fold as Thou hast commanded. Thou, who art the Light of the world, teach us to follow Thee. For Elders Jenson and Hughes, and myself and Sister Caroline J. Hatch, lady missionary of the Birmingham conference.

CHARLES W. HATCH, Conference President.

HEREWITH is the combined Christmas sentiment of elders of the London conference:

To those who, almost alone, carried the work of God through strenuous periods, when discouragements were faced daily:

To those faithful saints, whose loyal support and love of the gospel has kept the Church organization actively working during all times of trial:

To those who have made it possible for the elders to again enter this land:

To those honest open hearts that are seeking for truth:

To our companions, the missionaries, on whom rests the responsibility of carrying the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world:

We, James Arno Kirkham, Richard Williams, Jr., Gordon W. Mathis, Esdras Whittaker, Clyde Romney, Robert E. Griffiths, Leigh William Clark, James Wyley Sessions, Magdalen F. Sessions, Alvin George Lovell, Gomer Olsen Thomas, Miner Grant Prisbrey, Charles Henry Last, Claudis Warren Hinckley, Harold Harper Bennett, elders of the London conference, rejoice in the privilege of expressing our appreciation, our love, and our greetings at this happy season.

WE add our voices to those of the many saints and friends in Great Britain in praising the Maker. "For it is more blessed to give than receive;" and, "Peace on earth, good will toward men," are the teachings of Christ, little understood, and seldom practiced by men of to-day. Yet they are the essence of a true Christmas spirit. Let us endeavor to carry this spirit throughout the coming year. These are our Christmas wishes.

Norwich Conference. WILLIAM H. WILSON,
CHARLES DOUGLAS BARNES.

WITH Christmas and the New Year come thoughts of love and joy, and of "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Thoughts not born, but planted in the heart of man by a kind and loving Savior, from whose lips and heart came the words, and sprang that glorious greeting to all men. With this in mind, and a knowledge of the perfect brotherhood of man, we extend to our brothers and sisters the same glorious wish and greetings, made

sacred by the voice of angels. May it be realized in your lives, is the desire of Elders James S. Smith and Arthur H. Taylor, of the Hull conference.

With the coming of Christmas and the New Year, our thoughts turn from our daily duties to the exchange of hearty good wishes to our friends and fellow-laborers. With a thought of goodwill toward all men, we send our greetings to President Smith, and all the missionaries, saints and investigators in this mission. We ask that God's blessings may rest upon all; for no one, however strong he may be, can live an approved life, without the guidance and support of our Heavenly Father. As we enter upon a New Year let us all bear in mind the great strength we can be supplied with from that divine source. May this be a happy and a prosperous New Year to one and all. William Easton, John A. Donaldson and William Little, elders of the Scottish conference.

Christmas has come again, and all the Christian world commemorates the birth of the Savior by a national holiday. "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men," is an old Christmas adage; but in contemplating this Christmas, we are compelled to note how peace has been removed from the earth. The labor troubles, the scenes of bloodshed and destruction taking place here in Ireland, is evidence that the world has departed from the teachings of him, whose birth we now celebrate. May another Christmas see righteousness enter into the hearts of many that people may be prepared for the reign of peace, in which the Savior will come again and rule over his people.

Ireland. William H. Horlacher.

Again the happy Yuletide is at hand,
And Elders who labor in this distant land,
Send forth their greetings be it far and near,
To all who have to them become so dear.
Best wishes for a merry Christmas time
And hopes for all that they may truly find
Rich blessings scattered throughout the coming year,
To lighten life's burdens, and bring to them good cheer.

Halifax. Andrew T. Jacobsen.

Herewith is the Christmas sentiment from the elders of the Bristol conference:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." Thus sang a multitude of the heavenly host in praise, for unto all people there had been born in the city of David, a Savior of the world, which is Christ the Lord. He lived in the flesh; taught men the way they should go; and admonished them not to depart therefrom—promising them in his name that

obedience would bring joy and peace on the earth. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33). Therefore it is a pleasure that we, Frederick R. Morgan, Harvey D. Hansen, David N. Low, and Frank Lockyer, elders of the Bristol conference, unite and send you, one and all, the Season's Greetings of happiness and good cheer.

A TESTIMONY OF THE TRUTH.

My decision to apply for membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was, curiously enough, brought about by a mob. I had been converted some time, but it was a conversion of the head and not of the heart. Friends wondered why I did not want to join the Church if I believed its teachings. I could not explain, for I did not know myself. I only knew that I was not ready. I attended the open-air meetings conducted by the missionaries whenever possible, but took no part in them. I was content to assume the role of a disinterested listener. Sometimes I told myself I was inconsistent, that I was not honest, but I argued that it would not be right for me to identify myself with the Church until I was really converted. Had I before meeting the missionaries been what is known as "religiously inclined" it would have been different, I suppose. But I was not an adherent of any church. I considered ministers blind guides and many of their leading church members hypocrites. I wrote articles attacking them and defending the Mormons. The teachings of Mormonism seemed so reasonable and scriptural; but I was interested in them only from an intellectual standpoint. As I have already said, my conversion was of the head and not of the heart.

One beautiful summer night, as an out-door meeting was about to close, an austere individual in the garb of a minister of the dominant church came forward, extended his hand to one of the missionaries in a cold, formal manner and began to ask questions. It was soon obvious that he was not there to seek information, for he argued and blustered and denounced. A large crowd quickly gathered and commenced to hoot and jeer. It was a short step from this to violence and before the first assault was made I received what I had lacked so long—a testimony of the truth of Mormonism. My conversion was complete. "Come out of her my people, that you partake not of her sins and receive not of her plagues," which I had heard quoted so many times, was no longer a puzzle to me. I said to myself, "If Mormonism is not true, then the world is lost, for the popular churches and their followers are corrupt and merit destruction."

I had little time for reflection, however, for light having been

given to me, I felt that I would be a coward if I failed to identify myself with the missionaries. So I joined them and received the same treatment they received. It was thought that I was also from Salt Lake City. I applied for baptism that night.

Granting that one believes in Christianity, how can he fail to believe in Mormonism? Where in all the world can be found a people who so nearly resemble the early Christians? They have no professional ministry, who arrogate to themselves special privileges and powers, but every honest and upright male member, regardless of education, wealth or social position, is permitted to hold the priesthood. They do not tell the high and mighty of the earth that they are right whilst trying to convert the poor and the ignorant. They fearlessly denounce error and superstition wherever it is found. In their community life there are no definite social distinctions. The needy are not visited by patronizing ladies of great state who make a hobby of calling upon the poor, but their wants are supplied by women who come as sisters. The Latter-day Saints are the only people who have faith in and practice the "Laying on of hands" as a divinely-ordained ordinance for the healing of the sick, and that this custom is not a mere form with them can be attested by thousands of its members, including the writer.

If Mormonism is not true, why is it so reviled? "Polygamy," some say. No, certainly not. It did not begin with polygamy, and polygamy is not practiced now. It is opposed for the same reason that Christianity was opposed—because it is pure and good and true. When Christianity dawned upon the world two thousand years ago the religions at that time had ceased to be living faiths: they had become vested interests. It was the same when Mormonism was born and it is the same to-day, and that is why the Mormon missionary is still persecuted and reviled. A priest who had stirred up a considerable trouble for the missionaries in a certain locality was asked whether he really and truly believed the stories he had circulated concerning them. He refused to answer at first, but when forced to reply admitted that he did not believe them.

As I pen these lines I feel just as I did on that memorable night several years ago when I applied for admission into the Church. I feel that if Mormonism is not true, then no church on earth is true, for outside its pale there are none whom the Lord recognizes as His inspired servants. Why, outside of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints there is no Christian who dare even call himself by the true name of a member of the Church of Christ—that is, a "saint." I believe the head of the Mormon Church—or, to call it by its correct name, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—has all the power and authority and recognition from Heaven that was possessed by any of God's leaders in former times. I believe that the Mormon apostles

have the same authority that Christ gave to Peter, James and John. I believe that a member of that Church has the same right to call him or herself a "saint" as had a member of the early Church. I believe that we are living in the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times and that the Mormon missionary, humble and despised, is an ambassador of Heaven sent out to warn the world of the approaching end and to gather the righteous before "the great and dreadful day of the Lord." I bear my testimony with all humility and no feeling other than an earnest desire that all shall come to a knowledge of the truth.—FRED. W. BENNETT in *Liahona The Elders' Journal.*

EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH TRUE ISRAELITES.

THE following question has been received with the request that it be answered:

"From all we can learn, Joseph, the son of Israel, married an Egyptian who became the mother of Ephraim and Manasseh. We are also led to believe that the Egyptians were descendants of Ham, and we would like to know if the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh have Canaanitish blood in them?"

The question was referred to Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, who writes:

It is definitely understood that Egypt was first settled by the children of Ham. According to the Pearl of Great Price, Egyptus, daughter of Ham, settled there with her sons, and they attempted to follow the patriarchal order of government, but were denied the privilege of bearing the Priesthood. However, for upwards of five hundred years Egypt was governed by Semitic invaders, who adopted Egyptian customs and manners, more or less, yet in blood they were descendants of Shem, hence were kin to Abraham and his posterity.

Professor A. H. Sayce, in a little work called, *Joseph, and the Land of Egypt*, says, on page six:

"But Asia rose against African dominion, and Asiatic invaders, under the name of Hyksos, entered Egypt and became masters. For more than five hundred years their sway lasted in the valley of the Nile. At one time, it would seem, their supremacy was admitted throughout the civilized world. * * * They remained Semites and Canaanites, in spite of the Egyptian garb in which they clothed themselves."

Remember the term "Canaanite" as used here, has no reference to descendants of Ham, but to the inhabitants of the land of Canaan, not all of whom were descendants of Canaan, son of Ham.

These Hyksos, or shepherd kings, who had conquered Egypt and driven the Egyptians up the Nile country, were ruling in

Egypt at the time Joseph and the children of Israel were dwelling in that land. So Joseph found there a people who were of the same race from which his house had sprung, who were descendants of Shem. When he married Asenath, the daughter of the high priest of On, he married a woman who was not a descendant of Ham, but of Shem, and therefore of his own race. This truth also applies to Moses. On this point Sayce further comments, in the same work, page 63:

"It is not needful to believe that Poti-pherah, the father of Asenath, was of Egyptian race. One was now the religious capital of the foreign Pharaohs, and its high-priest was the chief chaplain in the Pharaoh's court. His name, *The Gift of the Sun-God*, was the Egyptian translation of a Canaanitish name, not a name of Egyptian origin and use. It is even doubtful if the name of his daughter was Egyptian at all."

If Asenath had been of pure Egyptian or Hamitic descent, then, according to the record, Ephraim and Manasseh would have been barred from ever holding the Priesthood, but instead of this, Jacob, their grandfather, blessed them as his own sons, and they were numbered as two tribes in Israel. Moreover, Ephraim obtained the birthright in Israel.

When, many years afterward, in the days of Moses, the old Egyptians had reconquered the land, the children of Israel were persecuted, because they were hateful in the eyes of the Egyptians, who knew not Joseph, and by Moses were led from the land.—*Improvement Era.*

SONNET.

Great truths are portions of the soul of man;
Great souls are portions of eternity;
Each drop of blood that e'er through true heart ran
With lofty message, ran for thee and me;
For God's law, since the starry song began,
Hath been, and still forever must be,
That every deed which shall outlast Time's span
Must goad the soul to be erect and free;
Slave is no word of deathless lineage sprung—
Too many noble souls have thought and died,
Too many mighty poets lived and sung,
And our good Saxon, from lips purified
With martyr fire, throughout the world hath rung
Too long to have God's holy cause denied.

LOWELL.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1920.

EDITORIAL:

THE MISSION.

At the beginning of the year there were only thirteen elders from Zion, and four lady missionaries serving in Great Britain. By the persistent efforts of President George Albert Smith on this side, and chiefly of Senator Reed Smoot in America, they finally succeeded in removing the embargo upon missionaries to this country, and a few at a time have been coming along, who, after a brief period of instruction in London, were assigned to the various conferences; so that now there are sixty-five missionaries, including those at headquarters, laboring in the field, and others are on the way. This has revived hope and interest and forebodes an approaching time of much activity and efficient labor in carrying our message of salvation to thousands in these islands, who have not yet heard or received it.

President Smith and son, George Albert, and Elder Wells made an extended tour of the Scandinavian and Netherlands mission in June and July, and in September the President, accompanied by his family, again visited Switzerland, and was also able to visit the conferences in Germany, thus completing an inspection of all parts of the European mission within the year, except South Africa. He has also visited every conference in Great Britain and Ireland, and most of these twice. That, in anything but robust health, he should have been able to so thoroughly cover the field in his travels, besides performing the laborious duties of the office at headquarters, is very remarkable; and gives occasion to recognize the hand of the Lord over him, for which his associates in the mission and the saints throughout are most grateful.

The arrival, early in the year, of other elders, to succeed the retiring presidents in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, and later, those of the Netherlands and of the Swiss and German missions, has installed an entirely new corps of presiding officers in all of the Continental missions, and they are aided by a few elders from Zion, that have been allowed to enter those countries. It is hoped that all restrictions will be removed which yet prevent the coming of the full force needed.

The phenomenal success of the Swiss and German mission, under Elder Angus J. Cannon's presidency, has been recently commented upon. That this will be greatly exceeded in the near future, in the German-speaking countries, under the direction of President Serge Ballif, is confidently expected.

The large number of converts on the Continent, together with an appreciable increase here, will probably bring up the total for the year to between fifteen and eighteen hundred. The emigration for the year greatly exceeds that of the previous and several recent years. About three hundred have sailed to America from this mission. The faithfulness of those remaining is marked in the attendance at meetings, the purchase of books and tracts, the payment of tithes and offerings, the willing support of every measure proposed for the advancement of the mission. We have reason to rejoice in the quite wonderful subsidence of much of the slanderous matter that formerly found ready access to the newspapers, and in the disposition to treat us fairly by the press. And we continue to be upheld by the government authorities wherever and however we have occasion to meet them.

The outlook is encouraging for a great work to be done in this mission. Under the favor and blessing of the Lord, which have ever been abundantly bestowed upon us, the missionaries and the saints should lift up their hearts in praise; and with energy, faith, and firm resolution highly resolve to make the coming year memorable for spreading the truth far and near, and for building up branches with increased numbers and exceeding faith.

J. F. W.

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY.

It will be written by many publicists at the end of this month that the year 1920 has been a critical year; one of great strain upon the nations and peoples. It was found at once that the unwilling acceptance of the Peace, signed in the summer of 1919, at Versailles, and reluctantly ratified by Germany in the following January, did not immediately produce a settlement of the world's problems, and usher in a period of security and rest. On the contrary, in Germany itself it became the signal for an attempt to overthrow the government in the short-lived revolution, led by Dr. Kapp.

This outbreak failing of its object, the restoration of the monarchy, left the Kaiser secure in his refuge, under the protection of Holland, and the so-called criminals of the war to be dealt with or ignored, as time goes on, by the responsible German government. In Austria, the remnant of the once powerful empire, after the organization of the new state taken from its territories, was too sick and feeble to do more than protest as it accepted the peace prescribed, and has for the whole year presented the woeful spectacle to the world of a starving, bankrupt, pitiable people dependent on the charity of the world. The continued conflict between the soviet government of Russia, with the various military efforts to overthrow the Bolshevics, has waged a destructive civil war throughout the year, but appears to have collapsed, leaving

Lenin and Trotsky in stronger control, especially since the signing of peace between Russia and Poland, and in making peace with Finland. The settlement of Polish boundaries, established beyond the lines intended for Poland by Versailles Peace, made war with Lithuania, and has created a situation there, which is not secure, and loads that country with a responsibility greater than the benefit of ruling so greatly enlarged a territory. In Italy, the economic strain has kept the country in a state bordering on revolution. The overthrow of the Nitti government, and recall to power of the celebrated old statesman, Giolitti, is working by a series of compromises a semblance of order. The working people are receiving recognition, in the reorganization of industries upon boards of control, and the experiment is watched with interest. The settlement of the Fiume difficulty, by agreement between the Italian and Yugo-Slav governments, only lacks the dispossession of the rebel poet d'Annunzio to be complete. But nobody appears to have the power or serious inclination to dispossess him. The Treaty of Peace with Turkey finally adjusted at San Remo, is very unsatisfactory to most of the nations. So far from driving the Turk out of Europe, it extends the Turkish frontier to the Chatolja lines, twenty-four miles west of Constantinople. The Armenian situation is in no way helped by it, and the establishment of Syria and Mesopotamia under the mandate of France and England respectively, as independent states, lays a heavy continuing charge on those nations to secure and preserve order. That Palestine has been rescued to be administered in the interests of the people and of the Jews, under British patronage, with Sir. Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner, is the best result so far achieved in the Middle East.

The ambitions of Greece appeared to be in fair way of full realization, as a result of the sagacious statesmanship of Venizelos, whose conduct in the dethronement of King Constantine, and in the peace congress, and afterward, had won the approval of all the Great Powers. But the unexpected happened, completely changing the outlook; through the misfortune which came to the young King Alexander, who was bitten by a pet monkey and died. An effort was then made to put his younger brother—a child on the throne, but Constantine and his friends had so adroitly canvassed all parts of the kingdom, that they defeated the plan, and finally secured a plebiscite which, to the amazement of the whole world, has led to the retirement of Venizelos, and the restoration to the throne of the exiled King. The consequences of this turnover are being viewed with much apprehension by the Great Powers, whose support of Greece was at the behest of Venizelos, and is not strongly pledged to the nation now revising his policies.

The most serious disturbance immediately affecting the comfort of Great Britain, is the continued conflict in Ireland. The Sinn

Fein party won so signal a victory at the general election of 1918, followed by like majorities in the county and municipal elections held since, that it has used its authority to lay the foundation and start the machinery of a republican independent state. In fact, Sinn Fein leaders assert that the Irish Republic is in existence *de facto*, by authority of the people. To meet this presumption and to demonstrate the impossibility of an Irish home-rule that means separation from the Empire of Great Britain, severe repressive measures have been put in operation by the government. Conflicts of the most diabolical character have ensued, between the police and military on the one side, and Sinn Fein irreconcilables on the other. In these conflicts the most cruel assassinations and arson, are conspicuous occurrences; the arrest and detention of hundreds, and, at last, the declaration of martial law in the southern parts of Ireland, describe the present situation, with small hope of an early settlement.

The labor troubles of Great Britain have been and still are giving great uneasiness. The long threatened strike of the coal-miners, involving a loss of millions of pounds, and the shutting down of many industries, occurred October 16th, and lasted until the 2nd of November, when by agreement with the government the miners resumed work, while a scheme is being tried out to establish future wages based upon output and division of profits. The continual high cost of living, aggravated by the miners' strike, and many lesser conflicts between capital and labor gives cause for anxiety; the impossibility of finding employment and housing for multitudes of ex-service men, and others demanding work, without disturbing established relations, gives opportunity to agitators to promote their socialistic, rebellious and revolutionary principles, always a threat and danger to the government and general welfare.

In spite of all drawbacks and hindrances progress is being made toward the restoration of normal conditions in government and industry throughout Great Britain and her colonies. The wonderful wealth of her people; their resolute determination to maintain her prestige in the commerce of the world; the able, fearless domination of her statesmen, in a coalition government led by the indomitable Lloyd-George, will succeed in time, in overcoming internal disorder and assure her ascendancy among the surviving Nations. Nevertheless the gross sins and sufferings of immorality, intemperance, and poverty are a reproach upon her civilization, and rebuke to her incompetent churches, and social affectations that must condemn her with the rest of the unbelieving world to the inevitable judgments of God.

The League of Nations came into being officially upon the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles on January 10th, 1920. Several meetings of the Council have been held at various cities, and questions discussed. The first meeting of the Assembly at

Geneva, was held November 15th, at which forty-two nations were represented. The effectiveness of the League so far may be inferred from the editorial comments of the *London Times*, summarizing the work of the first meeting just concluded, December 18th, from which we cull extracts:

It will take some time—perhaps, a rather considerable time—before the outside world apprehends exactly what the Assembly of the League of Nations have, and have not, accomplished at Geneva. * * * Of their positive achievements on matters of primary importance the public has hitherto taken but scant cognizance. It is known that they have established on paper a permanent Court of International Justice, and have recorded a *vœu* (resolution) on disarmament.

It remains to be seen what view the responsible Governments, the Legislatures, and the peoples of the nations more vitally affected by these proposals may form upon them. A like uncertainty must prevail upon the subject of mandates, which the Assembly had under consideration at their final sitting. * * *

Perhaps it is because the Assembly have been sitting at Geneva that they have appeared at times to be living out of touch with realities. The change to a less detached place of meeting should be considered before the next sitting of the Assembly. The differences on Saturday (the last day) between Lord Robert Cecil, on one hand, and Mr. Balfour and M. Bourgeois on the other, shows, not for the first time, that the Council and the Assembly have not quite the same conception of their several rights and duties. Limits of the authority of the two bodies will inevitably come up for discussion again. Nothing could do more to damage the prestige of the League than squabbles between its constituent parts. The Assembly very wisely adjourned consideration of the mass of amendments to the Covenant already proposed. But these amendments—or others, perhaps of a greatly enlarged scope—will have to be debated and decided at the next session. Long before that date we shall probably learn the course which America makes up her mind to adopt on her whole attitude towards world politics. That will profoundly affect the future of the League, and of the possibility of settling the graver kind of international disputes by pacific means. Until it is ascertained, the proceedings at Geneva, however hopeful in general effect, must remain, to some extent, of uncertain efficacy. The Prime Minister and Mr. Balfour, in speaking upon the subject, expressed what is called "a chastened satisfaction" and high hopes of its future. And they agree that the recent gathering has done good in the representatives getting acquainted and exchanging ideas.

The refusal of the United States Senate to ratify the Treaty, with the Covenant of the League of Nations, as accepted by President Wilson and conveyed to America by him, lead to a remarkable effort by the President to convince the Country that

he was right, and that the paramount duty of the United States was to ratify the Treaty. He traversed the country, and laboring beyond his strength, suffered a complete nervous breakdown, from which he has not yet entirely recovered. "The solemn referendum" by which he appealed to the people for support turned against the proposition. At the general election November 2nd, 1920, the Republican party won an overwhelming victory, securing the election of Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio, as President, and a greatly increased majority in the Senate and House of Representatives. Two other remarkable events of the year in America, were the triumph of the Anti-liquor legislation, which was upheld by the Supreme Court, making Prohibition the National law; and the final ratification by the states of the constitutional amendment giving women equal suffrage. The general prosperity of America, due to immense crops and revival of industry immediately after the war, began to wane the latter half of the year, because of the decline of trade with Europe, whose depleted treasuries made it impossible for the people to buy and pay for the things they need and America could furnish. The readjustment of the rates of money exchange between the financial capitals of the world is a subject demanding and receiving the profound thought of the great financiers, but it is supposed will require a long time to achieve. It cannot be brought about except by enormous economies in expenditures by the public, and the people, by increased output of the land, the mines and industries, and the consequent lowering of the cost of living, making it possible for people to buy. It is a reproach upon the intelligence and wisdom of the great men of the nations that, with an abundant surplus of food and clothing in some countries, millions of men, women, and children should be starving to death in China; and that revolutions, civil war, strikes and widespread financial distress should continue to prostrate the industries of other countries. Unemployment and the temporary means and measures resorted to for the relief of idle hands, breeds anything but a wholesome condition, where useful labor should be found, and rightly rewarded.

The world is in the doldrums yet. It has proved a costly and fearful ordeal to engage the nations in war over difficulties that should have been settled by the exercise of reasonable intelligence and the practice of the elementary principles of righteousness. But human wisdom unaided by the Spirit and counsel of God is not able to save the world from disaster, and, as the prophets foretold, the judgments have come; wars, famines, pestilence, earthquake, and the death and misery of many souls, is being poured out upon the nations and is destined to continue until a day of repentance shall come, and men shall seek to know and be governed by the Lord.

J. F. W.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

"WHERE can the Star of Bethlehem be found?" is the oft-repeated question that comes from many quarters. The fact is, no such star is visible in any part of the heavens. An observer with a vivid imagination fancied that he had discovered this long-looked-for star, and announced its return in some journal of the day. The idea pleased the popular fancy, was received with almost unquestioning faith, and the sky was eagerly scanned for a glimpse of the star that once shone over the humble dwelling that enshrined the Redeemer of mankind. Even the peerless Venus was impressed into service, and was firmly believed to be the sacred star, once more shining upon the earth after wandering for ages in the star depths.

The history of the so-called Star of Bethlehem is briefly this: Tycho Brahé, a Danish astronomer, discovered in the year 1572, an apparently new star near Caph in Cassiopeia. When first seen, in November, it had attained the first magnitude. It increased rapidly in brilliancy, until it rivaled Venus, and was visible at noonday. It began to diminish in brightness in December when it disappeared from view.

Forty years later, when the telescope was invented, a small telescopic star was found close to the spot where the wonderful star was seen. It is still there, and is probably the same. It is now classed among variable stars, and is, therefore, liable to blaze forth at any time in the same extraordinary manner. After classifying the star as a variable, the next thing to be done was to find out its period of variability. Astronomical records were searched, and it was ascertained that about the years 1263 and 956 bright stars suddenly appeared near the same quarter of the heavens. It was, therefore, classified as a variable, with a period of about three hundred years. Counting back three periods from 956, the exact period being uncertain, the star may have appeared near the time of the Christian era. Some imaginative observer, for this reason, christened it the Star of Bethlehem, and with scarce the shadow of a foundation the name has adhered to it ever since. It is also known as the Pilgrim Star, and among astronomers as the star of 1572.

If the star be a variable, with a period approximately of three hundred years, it is now due, and liable to burst forth into sudden brilliancy at any time. No celestial event would be more welcome to astronomers. The scientific world would be wild with excitement over the substantiation of an ingenious theory and the confirmation of its hopes. Its first appearance, its exact position in the heavens, its changes from day to day, would be telegraphed all over the country, and minutely described in the journals of the day. The advent of a comet, spanning the sky from the zenith to the horizon, would be of no account in com-

parison with the blazing star! Meantime the telescopic star near Caph in Cassiopeia shows no signs of any coming disturbance, and observers will wait patiently for developments, remembering that the outburst will be sudden, if it come.

It is generally considered that the extraordinary changes of light in stars like that of 1572 are caused by sudden outbursts of glowing hydrogen gas, which by its own light and by heating up the whole surface of the star causes the immense increase in brilliancy. The spots, faculæ, and rosy protuberances on the sun give some idea, on a small scale, of what may be going on in other suns on a much larger scale. Fortunately, the new or temporary stars observed by terrestrial astronomers number only about twenty-four, an infinitesimal number when compared with the boundless millions of stars that shine with unchanging brightness. The probability is, therefore, small that our sun will be added to the list of blazing stars. He will probably shine for millions of years to come, as he has shone for myriads of years in the past, and if observed from other suns and systems will be classed as a variable, with a period of about eleven years, corresponding to the cycle of sun spots.

Presence of Mind.—A great diplomatist, who had spent many years in the service of his country, with more than common opportunities for forming a correct judgment, once declared that, among all the remarkable men with whom he had been acquainted, he never met above one or two who possessed presence of mind. Presence of mind is the maintenance of the judgment under circumstances of panic or emergency which call for immediate action. That the faculty of doing the right thing at the right moment is entirely independent of merely animal, or, as it may be called, constitutional courage, is shown by its occasional manifestation by those in whom the latter quality is largely tempered with discretion. Jones, of Nayland, asserts, indeed, that the truest courage is always mixed with circumspection; while Addison points out that the courage which grows simply from the constitution very often forsakes a man just at the moment when he has occasion for it. Napoleon also refers to this distinction when he says: "I have very rarely met with the two-o'clock-in-the-morning courage. I mean unprepared courage; that which is necessary on an unexpected occasion, and which, in spite of the most unforseen events, leaves full freedom of judgment and decision." As wit pierces the ordinary current of conversation, so does presence of mind, in the form of a flash of ratiocination, illuminate a catastrophe or panic. The phrases, "having your wits about you, and "not losing your head," which are the ordinary vernacular equivalents for presence of mind, show, in fact, this exceptional quality to be essentially wit in

action. There is an old tradition which recounts how, when William the Conqueror landed for the first time on English soil, he slipped and fell on his face. Divining by some swift intuition that his followers might regard this as an ill omen, he rose with each hand full of earth, and exclaimed, "Thus do I take possession of England! I grasp it with both hands." To this readiness the quality of wit can hardly be denied; but it was practical wit as well, and is therefore properly regarded as one of the typical instances of presence of mind.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Arrivals.—The following-named elders arrived per s.s. *Melita*, December 19th, 1920, and were assigned temporarily to London: John W. Pitcher, Cornish, Tremonton, Utah; Grant P. Geddes, Banida, Idaho; John Max Toolson, Smithfield, Utah; Joseph Crowther, Logan, Utah; James T. Palmer, Morgan, Utah: and Elder William Naylor, Bountiful, Utah, who is appointed traveling elder in the Leeds conference

Reorganizations.—The following reorganizations in the Manchester branch, comprising saints of Manchester and Stockport, were effected, Sunday, December 19th, 1920: B. W. T. Norman, president; Charles Newton, first counselor. Relief Society: Louisa Grint, president; Molly Glassy, and Clara Kate Powell, counselors; Agnes Wallace, secretary; Janet Nash, treasurer; Mary James, librarian. Sunday-school: Harold Newton, superintendent: Florence Robinson and Doris Barrett, assistants; Bert Steele, secretary and treasurer; Jessie Carter, chorister; Horace Newton, librarian. Mutual Improvement Association: Doris Newton, president; Jessie Carter and Percy Glassy, assistants; Robert Vincent Wallace, secretary; Janet Nash, treasurer; Mary James, librarian.

DIED.

BRAITHWAITE.—Sister Emma Braithwaite, November 12th, 1920, at Hanley, aged sixty. She was baptized and confirmed July 15th, 1906, by Elder William A. Bennett.

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